



April 27, 2021

Docket No. RU-00000A-18-0284

RE: In the matter of possible modifications to the Arizona Corporation Commission's Energy Rules.

COMMISSIONERS:

Chair Lea Marquez Peterson

Justin Olson

Sandra D. Kennedy

Anna Tovar

Jim O'Connor

Vote YES on the Arizona Corporation Commission's Energy Rules Package

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the Arizona Technology Council's 800 member companies, we strongly encourage the Arizona Corporation Commissioners to vote YES on the passage of the Energy Rules package during the ACC's May 4|5 Open Meeting without delay, including the Recommended Opinion and Order. Passage of this policy is critical to reflect recent energy technology advances and to meet the new market realities in sunny Arizona. Specifically, we support the carbon-free electricity, energy efficacy and energy-storage standards detailed in the package approved by the Commission in November 2020.

Arizona is emerging as a national leader in technology and innovation, including the development and adoption of clean and renewable energy solutions. As we look ahead to the state's post-COVID 19 economic recovery, the clean-energy sector has the potential to play a significant role.

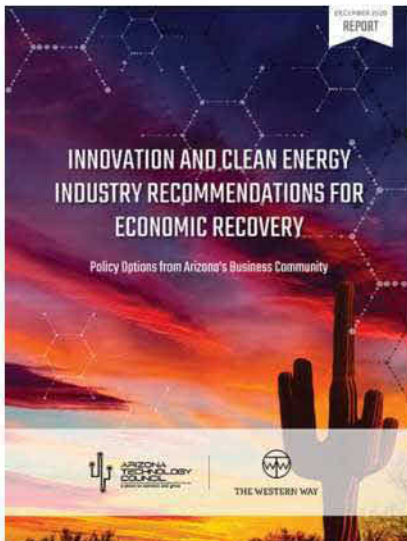
Passage of this Energy Rules package will put Arizona on a path to produce 100% emissions-free electricity by 2050. Arizona has proven its ability to lead the nation in developing solutions for clean and renewable energy technology in a way that benefits our overall economy. We now have a critical opportunity to open the doors for accelerating energy innovation even further as we plan our economic recovery.

The Arizona Technology Council, along with countless other companies in Arizona, have taken up initiatives to limit the environmental footprint of our business operations. As the Greater Phoenix region inches closer to becoming a major tech hub, it also is critical the state embraces clean and renewable energy technologies that not only have a much lower environmental impact but provide increased energy independence and drive economic development to help innovative companies, startups and small businesses grow.

While establishing the 15% REST in 2006 was notable, Arizona has since fallen behind many other states in the region and across the country in setting a strong renewable energy portfolio. It's time for Arizona to catch up.

Forward-thinking businesses understand the importance of clean energy. Additionally, Arizona companies are increasingly demanding electricity that powers their business operations to come from clean sources.

We are committed to maintaining these efforts moving forward. And we all agree economic development is a huge area of focus for Arizona, so it is imperative to continue the trajectory of business relocation and expansion. For many organizations like the Arizona Technology Council, we see that clean energy is the right choice for a sustainable and clean future.



It is worth noting that in late 2020, the Arizona Technology Council partnered with The Western Way to convene a stakeholder process bringing together Arizona business leaders to generate ideas and recommendations for incorporating the clean energy and innovation sectors into our state's economic recovery. Together, we released a new report that details how policymakers can incorporate energy innovation into Arizona's plan for recovering from the economic downturn caused by the pandemic.

The report, *Innovation and Clean Energy Industry Recommendations for Economic Recovery: Policy Options from Arizona's Business Community* and available for download at www.aztechcouncil.org/public-policy, outlines the economic benefit of energy innovation and specific recommendations for policymakers to integrate clean energy and clean technology initiatives into the recovery roadmap.

Clean energy is the answer to moving toward a prosperous and healthy future, as well as a powerful solution to restoring economic security at a time when Arizonans need it most. **The time to invest in innovation and clean energy is now, which is why we urge you to move this Energy Rules package without any further delay.**

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments and thank the Arizona Corporation Commissioners for considering our views.

Sincerely,

ARIZONA TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL



Steven G. Zylstra
President + CEO